

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-046
<b>Project Title</b>	Sustainable tourism supporting species conservation in the Srepok Wilderness, Cambodia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Cambodia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	IIED - International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	WWF Greater Mekong – Cambodia Country Programme
<b>Report date</b>	25 October 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project websites</b>	<a href="http://www.iied.org/SM/tourism/projects/cambodia.html">www.iied.org/SM/tourism/projects/cambodia.html</a> ; <a href="http://www.panda.org/greatermekong">www.panda.org/greatermekong</a>

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project

Progress on activities planned for the first half of FY06/07 are as follows:

#### **Learning exchange in Namibia**

In June/July 2006 Cambodian government and community staff members of the Srepok Wilderness Area project visited Namibia on a three week study visit to some of the country's national parks and community conservation areas. A large part of the visit was spent observing community wildlife guards undertake a half-year review of their monitoring activities, and discussions with communities and local WWF staff on how to adapt the approach in Namibia for the Cambodian context. Supported by Darwin Initiative and WWF International, the visit has catalyzed the required next steps to develop the required materials and capacity in Cambodia to begin piloting a similar community-based monitoring methodology by January 2007. SWA project staff have conducted initial activities with field staff to prepare for community ranger training in readiness for piloting the approach. This is all part of the initiative to use the lessons learned in Southern Africa, and apply the relevant models in Cambodia and further afield.

#### **Dry Forest Coalition meetings**

The Dry Forests Coalition is no longer in operation in Cambodia due to institutional conflicts between the government co-chairs. Instead, WWF is utilising other forums, networks, and informal networking to disseminate project activities and results.

#### **3D-modelling workshop**

Since May 2006, three 3D-modelling workshops have been organised in Monduliri province. The first involved a Filipino expert training trainers as well as guiding the model building process, and involved more than 40 local participants, including other NGOs, community and government department representatives. A 4m<sup>2</sup> model of Monduliri Protected Forest (MPF) (and adjacent Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary). Two more models have subsequently been produced for more targeted community areas around MPF.

#### **Socio-economic surveys**

The comprehensive first phase of community surveys have been completed for all target communities. Data has been analyzed and a report is available. In summary, surveys have been conducted in 15 villages in 8 communes, and a total of 593 households have been surveyed so far (73% of target households). Preliminary results from one village in Pu Chrey commune indicate the following: 38% of village members are regularly engaged in hunting activities inside the MPF, and 13% of hunting is for wildlife trade; 73% of new settlers are from another province; 83% of households take wood from the forest for firewood; and 45% of respondents are planting soy bean in their chamkar (shifting cultivation plots) – this is a new cash crop in the area. Surveys will continue at the start of the dry season in the next two months.

**Wildlife census, enforcement , and camera-trapping**

Enforcement activities are being undertaken continuously. From the five outposts, 10 patrolling teams are actively patrolling the Mondulkiri Protected Forest (each outpost has two patrolling teams who patrol on a rotational basis; 3-5 days on extended patrol and 3-5 days patrolling from the outpost). Each team consists of a Forest Administration Officer (FA), two Border Police, and two community rangers. Recently, 4 Vietnamese poachers, and 6 local poachers were caught, with illegal hunting and fishing equipment, as well as chainsaws, confiscated. No camera-trapping in first half of reporting period due to wet season conditions. Camera traps will go out into the forest from late October/early November, up to April/May next year. Wildlife monitoring during this period has been limited to the continuing operation of 'vulture restaurants' (MPF contains one of last nesting vulture populations in Cambodia), and is part a national collaborative study with WCS and Birdlife International.

**Tourism feasibility study**

A preliminary economic model was prepared for the SWA tourism infrastructure by IIED and WWF staff. Initial tourism surveys have been designed. Surveys began in September in collaboration with Umeå University, Sweden (and are on track for completion by end November) and preparations are being made for a market analysis and consultation workshops to be conducted in November/December.

**Tourism training**

An ecotourism technical advisor is being recruited and is expected to be in place in November/December. Their primary role will be to manage the next phase of the tourism development component of the overall SWA project. Initial activities will include providing basic training to WWF staff and local government officials, as well as providing technical assistance to provincial authorities on tourism planning.

**Communications**

Several press releases and stories came out of the Namibia learning exchange, including a "Notes from the field" feature:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/asia\\_pacific/news/on\\_the\\_ground/index.cfm](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/news/on_the_ground/index.cfm) , or:  
[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/asia\\_pacific/our\\_solutions/greatermekong/dry\\_forests\\_ecoregion/index.cfm?uNewsID=80200](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/our_solutions/greatermekong/dry_forests_ecoregion/index.cfm?uNewsID=80200)

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Once again the rains have been heavy in Cambodia – but the momentum behind this project has exceeded expectations – with anticipation that all proposed activities will be completed during the coming dry season. These include socio-economic survey results, project on fire and livelihoods, and tourism feasibility study. One indicator of progress is that the SWA project is receiving a considerable volume of requests from conservationists, students and academic institutions for access to the area for research and study. To this end, it has been necessary to develop an "access policy". Indeed, it has been very useful to leverage further funding using the current Darwin Initiative funding. Extra activities include leopard population research which it is hoped will commence in Feb 07. None of these will impact budget or timeline – rather will exceed expectations!

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

N/a

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** no/yes, in.....(month/yr)